

BOOK REVIEWS

Although there are many books on drawing and art, few of them are of use in preparing illustrations for scientific publications. The following 3 books are reviewed to assist contributors to the *Coleopterists Bulletin* in improving the technical as well as the esthetic quality of their papers.

A handbook of biological illustration by Frances W. Zweifel. 1965. The University of Chicago Press, 131 p., 62 fig., 5¼"x8", paper \$1.95. (Phoenix Science Series: PSS510).

Scientific illustration by Charles S. Papp. 1968. Wm. C. Brown Co., Dubuque, Iowa, 318 p., 1650 illus., 8½"x11", cloth \$11.75.

Basic drawing for biology students by Emil G. Bethke. 1969. C. C. Thomas Publ. Co., Springfield, Ill., 100 p., 134 illus., 6¾"x9¾", cloth \$7.00.

The order in which they are listed is also the order in which I recommend them, although the first 2 are a "toss up." The Zweifel book is small, but there is a wealth of concise information with selected examples. With its low cost, it should be on the shelf of every author (alongside the *Style Manual for Biological Journals*).

The second book is by Charles Papp, a coleopterist known to many of our readers. It is highly recommended because of the great number of beautiful examples of techniques, including many beetle drawings. The text is primarily a series of explanations of the figures. Although the English is an improvement over a 1963 edition, it is not up to the high quality of the illustrations. Papp is a "Scientific illustrator" which he distinguishes from an "artist" who has greater freedom of expression.

The final book by Bethke is the most recent, and, for its small size, much overpriced. The author-artist is an ophthalmologist who approaches drawings more as a beginning art teacher might. Stress is placed on sketching, proportion, and perspective. However, there are few finished examples and none of fine detail like those in the 2 previous books.

Any approach to scientific illustration can be of value in certain situations. I would therefore suggest getting all the books and aids which the author can afford. I believe that the first 2 books are as important to anyone publishing papers with illustrations as a text is to a student. He can always borrow a copy from the library, but he will miss a great deal if he doesn't have his own copy. Every taxonomist should become familiar with the basic techniques of illustration, and at least one book such as those reviewed above is indispensable. (R. E. Woodruff).

BEETLE TALK

Only when one takes on an editorial job does he realize the time and effort which must go into producing every scientific journal. The *Coleopterists Bulletin* has been fortunate through the years to have had devoted people willing to sacrifice their own work to get out the *Bulletin*. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. N. M. Downie for his past 4 years of editorship, and to the previous 3 editors (Ross H. Arnett, Jr., R. E. Blackwelder, and T. J. Spilman) for their service to the *Bulletin*. Twenty-five years of continuous publication with high quality standards is a permanent record that their jobs were well done.